# Rules of Discipline

and

# Advices

# RULES OF DISCIPLINE

AND

# ADVICES

OF THE

YEARLY MEETING

OF THE

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

HELD IN

PHILADELPHIA.

(Fifteenth and Race Streets.)

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# RULES OF DISCIPLINE

AND

# ADVICES.

# INTRODUCTION.

It is held by the Religious Society of Friends that God endows every human being with a measure of His own Divine Spirit, by which he has revealed Himself to His children in all generations; that this Spirit, which although in man, is not of man, is the manifestation in our human nature of the Eternal Word "which was in the beginning," and which was manifested without measure in the person of our Divine Master, Jesus Christ; and that as we submit ourselves to the leadings of this Light of Christ in the soul, we are loosed from the bonds of self and sin, and enabled to live in conformity with the will of our Heavenly Father.

The Society early recognized that there were among its members different degrees of spiritual growth and religious experience, and that those whose lives had long been dedicated to the obedient service of the Lord might nurture the growth of those younger in His service. In their engagement to meet together for the worship of God in spirit according to the direction of the Holy Lawgiver, they were also exercised to have a tender care over each other, that all might be preserved in unity of faith and practice.

To this end, therefore, and as an exterior hedge of preservation against the many temptations and dangers to which our situation in the world exposes us, advices have been issued and rules adopted from time to time by the Society.

They found their inception in the impressions made upon concerned minds, and having been submitted individually or through subordinate meetings to the judgment of the Yearly Meeting, they were adopted and issued by that body.

Collections of these Rules and Advices, in manuscript, were formed by the Yearly Meeting as early as 1704, again in 1719, and at different times later, notably in 1762; and in 1797 the compilation was issued in print. The book was added to and changed at various times. In 1892 it was concluded to revise the whole, and the revision having been adopted by the Yearly Meeting in 1894, now forms our Book of Discipline.

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[NOTE.—In the following pages, pronouns of the masculine gender include the feminine, and the singular number includes the plural in all consistent cases.

The term Quarterly Meeting includes Half Year Meetings in consistent cases.]

## YEARLY MEETING.

History of

Our first Yearly Meeting was held at Burlington, in New Jersey, the thirty-first day of the Sixth month, 1681, O. S., for the provinces of Pennsylvania and New Jersey; in 1685 it was agreed that it should be held alternately at Burlington and Philadelphia; in 1755 the time of holding it was changed to the Ninth month; in 1760 it was concluded that it should be held at the same time at Philadelphia only; in 1798 the time of holding it was altered to the third Second-day in the Fourth month; in 1827 the time of holding it was changed to the second Second-day of the Fourth month; and in 1838 it was agreed that it should be held the Second-day following the second First-day in the Fifth month, as it now is.

Ministers and Elders.

The Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders is held on the Seventh-day of the week preceding.

## MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP.

FROM the rise of our Religious Society, meetings for worship have been held. As the attendance of them is an expression of our allegiance to our Heavenly Father, and a means afforded for the renewal of our spiritual strength, we exhort all to a Christian zeal and exercise in the performance of this reasonable service.

Reverent waiting recommended.

As we are not capable of performing Divine worship in our own strength, we recommend a reverent waiting upon God in true silence, and retirement of mind, for a renewed sense of the inward power of his Spirit, whereby we are qualified to worship Him in an acceptable manner. Let our faithfulness and sincerity herein appear by the humility, meekness, and circumspection of our lives and conversation, exemplifying the principles of Truth as they were declared by Jesus and his disciples; and we earnestly advise that the children and youth of our Society be trained in a knowledge of this important

Children and youth to be encouraged to attend.

duty, and encouraged to assemble regularly at the times appointed, for religious worship.

Care to those who neglect.

It is recommended that Friends early extend care, in the spirit of restoring love, to members who neglect the attendance of our meetings.

We would revive an exhortation of our Yearly Meeting held in 1694:

To be held in the authority of Truth.

"Dear Friends, keep your meetings in the authority, wisdom, and power of Truth, and unity of the blessed Spirit, and endeavor to keep out of all contention, personal reflection, heat and passions. Let all be done in meekness, and the God of peace be with you."

## MEETINGS FOR DISCIPLINE.

For the regular and effectual support of good order in the Society, besides the usual meetings for the purpose of Divine worship, there have been instituted meetings for Discipline, which having from experience been found very beneficial, it is earnestly recommended that they be maintained in that authority wherein they were established. Where there is negligence concerning them, serious spiritual loss is the result.

Order and subordination.

These meetings, and their subordination to one another, are as follows: *First*, Preparative Meetings; which consist of the members of a particular meeting for worship, and are accountable to the Monthly Meetings: *Second*, Monthly Meetings; each of which may consist of one or more Preparative Meetings, and is accountable to the Quarterly Meeting: *Third*, Quarterly and Half-Year Meetings; each of which consists of one or more Monthly Meetings, and is accountable to the Yearly Meeting: and *Fourth*,

the Yearly Meeting; which comprises the whole.

May be held separately or together.

Any of these meetings may be held by men and women in separate session, or together.

Preparative Meetings, when not enjoined.

The holding of a Preparative Meeting is not enjoined where its membership and that of the Monthly Meeting is the same. In such cases business that would otherwise come before a Preparative Meeting shall be attended to by the Monthly Meeting.

Order in setting up and laying down.

A Quarterly Meeting shall not be set up, laid down, nor omitted, without the consent of the Yearly Meeting; a Monthly Meeting without the consent of the Quarterly Meeting; nor any Preparative or other established meeting for business or worship, until application to the Monthly Meeting has been made; and when there approved, the consent of the Quarterly Meeting shall also be obtained.

Establishment of meetings for worship.

No meeting for worship, intended to consist of Friends belonging to two or more monthly meetings, shall be set up, until the proposal shall have been offered to, and approved by, those monthly meetings, and the consent of their respective Quarterly Meeting or meetings been obtained. When the meeting

proposed is opened, it shall be attended by a few suitable Friends, deputed by each of the said Monthly Meetings. If at any time it is thought expedient that a Preparative Meeting should be held at the same place, the consent of the said Monthly and Quarterly Meetings shall, in like manner, be applied for and obtained; and the said Preparative Meeting shall be annexed to one or the other of those Monthly Meetings, as may be most likely to conduce to the benefit of the individuals who compose it, and to the advantage of the Society.

Advice concerning attendance.

These meetings have distinct allotments of service. Experience has shown that when they are attended in dedication of heart, with a sincere desire for help and edification, they are often seasons of Divine favor. Friends are affectionately desired and exhorted to be diligent in the attendance of them, and, when met, humbly to seek to be clothed with the spirit of wisdom and charity. This will divest the mind of a dependence on our own strength and abilities, endue us with patience and condescension toward one another, and enable us to realize the truth of the declaration of Jesus: "One is your teacher, and all ye are brethren."[1]

[1] Matthew 23: 8.

Thus in our several stations and movements, we shall witness a qualification to strengthen one another in that faith which works by love to the purifying of the heart.

## REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE,

OR

## MEETING FOR SUFFERINGS.

Manner of appointment.

In order that the Yearly Meeting may be properly represented when not in session, it is directed that each Quarterly Meeting produce annually, in its report to the Yearly Meeting, the names of four suitable Friends, to constitute together a Representative Committee to be held and regulated according to the following rules:

Rules regulating.

*First.* Due notice of its meetings shall be given to the members.

*Second.* No fewer than twelve members shall constitute a meeting capable of transacting business.

*Third.* The said Committee may sit on its own adjournments, and order these, as well as the times of its stated meetings, according to the business before it.

*Fourth.* The said Committee shall keep fair minutes of all its proceedings, and annually lay them before the Yearly Meeting.

Services confided to

The services confided to this Committee are, in general:

*First.* To represent the Yearly Meeting during its recess, and to act on its behalf in cases where the welfare of our religious Society may render it needful. It is not to interfere with any matter of faith or discipline.

*Second.* To procure and distribute such books or pamphlets as may be a means of spreading the knowledge of our religious principles or testimonies; and to advise or assist any of our members, on their own application, who may incline to publish any such manuscript or work as may tend to promote the cause of Truth, or be beneficial to the Society.

*Third.* To render advice and assistance to meetings, at their request, on subjects relating to property, titles to lands, the renewal

of trusts, and the application of public gifts and legacies. Services confided to

*Fourth.* To receive from the several Quarterly Meetings their accounts of sufferings, and also such memorials concerning deceased Friends as those meetings have concurred with; that, when examined and approved, they may be laid before the Yearly Meeting, or otherwise be returned to the respective Quarterly Meetings for revision or correction.

*Fifth.* To extend such advice and assistance to any individuals under suffering for our testimonies, as their cases may require; and, if necessary, to apply to the government, or to persons in authority, on their behalf.

*Sixth.* To correspond with representative bodies of other Yearly Meetings, as occasion may require, on subjects of general interest to the Society.

Although none are members of the Representative Committee but such as are appointed in the manner herein provided, yet other Friends, at the discretion of said Com- Attendance of other Friends.

mittee, may be permitted to attend when they feel a concern to do so.

Supplying vacancies

When a vacancy occurs by death or otherwise among the members of the Representative Committee appointed by a Quarterly Meeting, such Meeting should take care to supply it by a new appointment.

## MINISTERS AND ELDERS.

Character of ministry.

FRIENDS were gathered from the established churches and a formal service, to own a living, baptizing gospel ministry free to all, agreeably to the apostolic injunction: "Be sober unto prayer: . . . . . according as each hath received a gift, ministering it among yourselves, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God; if any man speaketh, speaking as it were oracles of God; if any man ministereth, ministering as

of the strength which God supplieth."[1] So the ministers were led frequently to meet together to encourage and strengthen each other in a knowledge of the duties they owed to God and man, that they might more fully and faithfully minister the Word of life.

Elders.

As these meetings were found to be beneficial, a concern arose for Monthly Meetings to appoint, as elders, some judicious, concerned Friends to have care for the conducting of our religious meetings, and to be companions and counsellors to the ministers, as tender, loving, spiritual fathers and mothers, especially to those young in the ministry, inciting to a frequent reading of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and to a dependence on Divine aid for the right understanding of them; encouraging all to abide in a simple and patient submission to the will of God, and to keep down to the openings of the Divine love and life in themselves, that they may experience a growth in their gifts, and be preserved from withholding more than is meet, or extending their communications beyond the life and power of Truth.

Duties of Elders.

[1] I. Peter 4: 7, 10, 11.

Elders, how chosen.

It is recommended that each Monthly Meeting choose four or more Friends to serve as elders, who shall, with the ministers if any, compose a meeting to be denominated a Preparative Meeting of Ministers and Elders; taking care that those chosen for that service be prudent, discreet Friends, who will carefully discharge the trust confided to them.

Committee once in four years, or oftener.

It is directed that a committee be appointed once in four years, or oftener if the meeting shall consider it desirable or necessary, to bring forward the names of suitable Friends to serve as elders; bearing in mind that the qualifications required are not found amongst older Friends only, but occur, as well, among the middle-aged and young; it being distinctly understood that whether any change is made or not, the committee shall report all the names to the Monthly Meeting for its judgment, and those appointed shall serve until their successors are duly appointed or they otherwise relieved.

Information to be forwarded.

Information of all appointments of elders shall be transmitted by minute to the Quarterly and Preparative Meetings of Ministers and Elders.

Ministers and elders are affectionately desired to exercise a watchful care over the membership for its preservation in the way of righteousness, always approving themselves by their good examples in conversation and conduct to be such as endeavor faithfully to maintain the testimonies of Truth.

To have care over membership.

The ministers and elders of each Monthly Meeting are to meet once in three months, at such time and place as the Monthly Meeting may direct, in the capacity of a Preparative Meeting of Ministers and Elders; when, after a time of solid retirement, the Queries addressed to such meetings are to be read and considered, and distinct answers made to them in writing, which, when signed by the clerk, are to be forwarded to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, to attend which as representatives two or more Friends should be appointed. If, upon inquiry, any deficiency appear, care should be taken that it is remedied.

Preparative Meeting of Ministers and Elders.

Queries to be read, answered, etc.

Representatives to be appointed.

And in the said Quarterly Meeting the queries are also to be read, with the answers from the several Preparative Meetings, and the state of the members carefully consid-

Queries in Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to be signed and forwarded.

ered, that, where occasion requires, advice and counsel may be extended; and once a year these answers, comprised in a written summary and signed by the clerk, are to be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, to attend which four or more representatives should be appointed. In this meeting also the queries are to be read, with the answers from the several Quarterly Meetings, and duly considered; and if deemed necessary, suitable advice and counsel may be issued to the subordinate branches.

Not to interfere with Meetings for Discipline.

None of the said meetings of Ministers and Elders are in anywise to interfere with the business of any meeting for discipline; nor is the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders to allow its adjournments to interfere with the sittings of the Yearly Meeting for Discipline.

Manner of acknowledging ministers.

When any Friend has frequently appeared in our religious meetings as a minister, and the Preparative Meeting of Ministers and Elders apprehends that it is reasonable, the subject should be forwarded by minute to the Monthly Meeting of which he is a member, for its attention and judgment; and if that meeting be united in believing

that a gift in the ministry has been committed to him, a minute expressive thereof should be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, where the case should be carefully considered, and if the judgment of the Monthly Meeting be concurred in, information thereof should be sent by minute to the Monthly Meeting of which he is a member, and to the Preparative Meeting of Ministers and Elders thereof, by its representatives. Until the approval of the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders has been thus obtained, such Friend is not at liberty to attend any of their meetings, or travel abroad as a minister.

Religious visits beyond limits of Quarterly Meeting.

When an acknowledged minister believes it right to make a religious visit and appoint meetings beyond the limits of the Quarterly Meeting to which he belongs, the concern is to be opened in the Monthly Meeting (both men's and women's branches when held separately) for consideration and judgment, and if approved a suitable minute expressive thereof signed by the clerk or clerks should be given.

Minute to be given.

To attend a Yearly Meeting, etc.

If the concern is to attend a Yearly or Quarterly Meeting, and such meetings as may lie in the way going and returning, a

certificate of the Monthly Meeting signed by the clerk or clerks, will be sufficient. But if the concern is to visit and appoint meetings beyond the limits of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and the approbation of the Monthly Meeting be obtained, the concern should also be brought before the Quarterly Meeting for its consideration, and, if united with, its endorsement.

Religious visits beyond limits of the Yearly Meeting.

Approval of Quarterly Meeting to be obtained.

When a minister is set at liberty to make a religious visit within the limits of the Yearly Meeting, the Monthly Meeting of which he is a member should extend care that the service be not hindered, or the Friend oppressed for means to meet the necessary expenses thereof; and when the concern is united with, and a minute endorsed by the Quarterly Meeting, a like care should rest with it.

Religious visits to be aided, if necessary.

If the concern is to go beyond the sea, or on a very extended religious visit on this continent, after the approval and certificates of the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings have been obtained, the Friend so concerned should lay his prospect before the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, for its consideration, and if it be there united with, a certificate to that effect should be signed by

Religious visits beyond sea, etc.

the clerk and forwarded to the Yearly Meeting for Discipline. If the concern be there approved the certificate should be endorsed by the clerks. The Friend is then at liberty to proceed, and a committee should be appointed by the Yearly Meeting to take further care, and if necessary to draw from its funds to enable him to perform the service for which he was liberated.

Committee to give necessary care.

When a Friend has been liberated to make a religious visit, and the service has been accomplished, the meetings that approved thereof should be so informed and the certificates returned to the respective meetings from which they were issued, without unnecessary delay.

When service is completed, minute to be returned.

As the occasion of our religious meetings is solemn, a care should ever be maintained to guard against anything that tends to disorder, or confusion therein; therefore if any feel aught against what is publicly delivered, they should speak of it to the person privately and kindly; and if anyone shall openly oppose an acknowledged minister, or manifest a dislike to such while thus engaged, let him be speedily admonished in brotherly love.

Public opposition to ministers, admonished.

Treatment of those who have lost their service.

If a minister at any time by negligence, unfaithfulness, or otherwise, be thought by the Preparative Meeting of Ministers and Elders where such Friend belongs, to have lost his service in that station, it is advised that a timely and tender care be extended according to gospel order; first by the Friends feeling the concern, and then by the Preparative Meeting of Ministers and Elders to which he may belong. If these labors prove unavailing, report of the case should be made by that meeting to the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, and there a few Friends should be appointed to assist the said Preparative Meeting in a further extension of labor. If this also prove unavailing, and by the report thereof to the said Quarterly Meeting, it appears that the said Preparative Meeting has fully discharged its duty to the individual, the Quarterly Meeting, when clear to do so, shall transmit the case to the Monthly Meeting for Discipline of which the party is a member, and leave it under its care; and he shall, from that time, refrain from attending meetings of Ministers and Elders unless he be again acknowledged as at first.

## QUERIES FOR MEETINGS OF MINISTERS AND ELDERS.

When and where to be read and answered.

Of the following four queries, for the use of the Meetings of Ministers and Elders, the first three are to be read and distinctly answered in writing three times a year, by each Preparative Meeting of that kind, to its respective Quarterly Meeting; and the four queries are to be in like manner read and answered, by the Preparative to their Quarterly Meetings next preceding the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders; that the Quarterly Meetings may be enabled to transmit a clear and distinct statement of those answers to that meeting.

Queries.

*First Query.* Are Ministers and Elders careful to attend meetings for Divine worship, and for discipline, encouraging their families and others to this important duty?

*Second Query.* Are Ministers sound in word and doctrine; careful to minister in the ability which God gives?

Queries.

*Third Query.* Are the lives and conversation of Ministers and Elders clean and blameless amongst men? Are they in unity with one another, and with the meeting to which they belong, harmoniously laboring for the Truth?

*Fourth Query.* Are they good examples in uprightness, temperance and moderation; and careful to train up their families in plainness of dress and simplicity of manners, becoming our religious profession?

Ministers and Elders to watch over one another for good.

It is earnestly and affectionately recommended that Ministers and Elders watch over one another for good, and help those who are rightly exercised in the ministry; discouraging such as run into words, without life and power; advising against affectation of tones and gestures, and everything that would hurt their service; yet encouraging the humble, careful traveller. And let all dwell in that which gives ability to labor successfully in the church of Christ; so will they show forth the fruits of the doctrine which they deliver to others, being examples to their brethren in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.

## OVERSEERS.

It is directed that in every Monthly Meeting a proper number of faithful and judicious men and women be appointed to the station of overseers. Where a Monthly Meeting consists of two or more Preparative Meetings each of them should be represented. To be appointed.

It is the duty of the overseers to exercise a vigilant and tender care over their fellow members; and if anything repugnant to the harmony and good order of the Society appears among them, it should be seasonably attended to. To prevent the introduction of all unnecessary and premature complaints to meetings for discipline, it is advised that if any member shall have cause of complaint against another, it be mentioned to the overseers, who are to see that the person complained of has been treated with according to Gospel order,[1] previously to the case being reported to the Preparative or Monthly Meeting. It is earnestly desired that in dealing with any, over- Duties of. Complaints to be brought to overseers.

[1] Matthew 18: 15.

Duties of, continued.

seers do it in the spirit of meekness and love, patiently endeavoring to instruct and advise them; informing the Preparative Meeting when the labor proves ineffectual, or where the nature of the case requires it, that, if needful, the case may be laid before the Monthly Meeting, notice of which should be given to the party when it can conveniently be done.

Changes to be considered.

It is recommended to Monthly Meetings, that a committee be appointed once in three years, or as much oftener as the case may require, to consider the propriety of changing the overseers, and bringing forward in the improvement of their gifts, other Friends on whom a concern for the welfare of the Society rests.

To meet frequently.

It is further advised that the overseers of a Monthly Meeting meet frequently together, at least once in three months, to consider carefully the welfare of the flock, and to strengthen, encourage and aid each other in the faithful performance of their responsible duties.

Exhortation to those called into service.

And we tenderly exhort all our members who may be rightly called into this or any other service of the church, not hastily to excuse themselves therefrom, but solidly to ponder the weighty advice of the apostle:

"Tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according unto God; nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as lording it over the charge allotted to you, but making yourselves ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall be manifested, ye shall receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away."[1]

## MEMBERSHIP.

Birthright members.

CHILDREN whose parents are both members of our Religious Society are, by birthright, members also, and are to be recorded as such;

Children with one parent a member.

where one parent only is a member their children shall not have a right of membership unless application for their admission is made either by themselves or by their parent, parents, or guardian, on their behalf, and the Monthly Meeting applied to, admits them or any of them in the usual order.

Record of children whose parents are members of different Monthly Meetings.

It is directed that children of parents belonging to different

[1] I. Peter 5: 2, 3, 4.

Monthly Meetings of Friends shall be considered members of the Monthly Meeting of which the father is a member; and the record of their birth shall be made in that Monthly Meeting.

Order in application for membership.

It is directed that the following order be observed respecting persons who desire admission into membership; that application be made to the overseers, who, when they are satisfied, are to lay it before men's or women's Preparative Meeting, as the case may be, when they are not held together; and when there approved, the case should be laid before the Monthly Meeting, which meeting shall appoint some suitable Friends to inquire into the person's life and conversation, and also to take an opportunity for a serious conference with him in order the better to understand whether the motives for such request be sincere, and report their sense of the person's fitness to become a member; and when the meeting is satisfied, a minute should be made signifying the acceptance of such into membership, and appointing one or more Friends to acquaint the person thereof, and invite his attendance at our meetings for discipline.

It is earnestly recommended that on every application of persons to be received into membership, Monthly Meetings be deep and weighty in their deliberations and in reaching a conclusion, the neglect of such caution having often been injurious both to the individual and to the Society; but, when united in believing that the applicants are convinced of the truth of our religious principles and in a good degree subject to the Divine Witness in their own hearts, manifested by a circumspect life and conduct, said meetings are at liberty to receive such into membership, without respect to nation or color.

Consideration of applications for membership.

Without respect to nation or color.

As there are those not in membership with any religious organization who frequently attend our meetings for worship, who are serious and thoughtful in their deportment and who manifest an interest in our principles and testimonies, who might with profit to themselves and the meeting become members of our Religious Society, it is recommended that overseers and other concerned Friends give loving attention to such, with a view to their becoming members.

Loving attention to non-members.

## FAMILY VISITS.

Such concerns to be cherished.

As THE visiting of Friends in their families, in the openings of Heavenly Wisdom, is a service which hath often been blessed to the minds of the visitors and visited, it is advised that concerns of this nature be tenderly cherished, and those who are rightly exercised therein encouraged to move forward in due season and in humble dependence on the Shepherd of Israel, who not only puts His own forth, but goes before and enriches all who are faithful to His appointments with the reward of sweet comfort and solid peace. When a Friend has a religious concern to visit the families belonging to any particular meeting or meetings, it should be opened in his Monthly Meeting for concurrence and approval, when, if the concern is united with and the Friend set at liberty to perform the same, the matter should be laid before the meeting, the members of which it is proposed to visit, and if there approved, way should be opened for the accomplishment of the visits.

Approval of monthly meetings required.

## THE GOSPEL MINISTRY.

Worship and ministry under the immediate teaching and influence of the Holy Spirit.

LET us keep in remembrance that it is under the immediate teaching and influence of the Holy Spirit that all acceptable worship is performed, and all true Gospel Ministry supplied. This pure and powerful influence, in vessels sanctified and prepared by the Divine hand, is the essential qualification to that work, and, as the gift is Divine, the service is to be discharged freely and faithfully without any view to reward from man.

Testimony against professional ministry.

One of the earliest testimonies developed in the religious experience of Friends was against a ministry founded on human authority, relying for its qualifications on human abilities or learning, and maintained by pecuniary support.

Exhortation to observe this testimony.

In great love and tenderness we exhort those of our members who are in the habit of attending places of worship where this principle is violated, to a closer attenion and greater obedience to this important testimony, desiring them to remember that they owe

their allegiance to the Society of which they are members, and that by indifference to its testimonies and absence from its meetings they deprive it of the strength which is its due.

## DAYS AND TIMES.

Ground of our testimony.

FRIENDS have ever had a testimony against formal worship, being convinced by the precepts of our Lord Jesus Christ, by the testimonies of his Apostles, and by individual experience, that the worship and prayers which God accepts are such only as are produced by the influence and assistance of his Holy Spirit. We cannot therefore consistently unite with any in the observance of public fasts, feasts, and what they term holy days; or such injunctions and forms as are devised in man's will for Divine worship. The dispensation to which outward observances were peculiar having long since given place to the spiritual dispensation of the gospel, we believe the fast to which we are now called is not the bowing of the head like a bulrush for a day, but an universal

and continual fasting and refraining from everything which has a tendency to defile the soul, and unfit it for becoming the temple of the Holy Spirit; according to the injunctions of Christ to his primitive disciples: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me:"[1] "Watch ye at every season, making supplication, that ye may prevail to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."[2] That the primitive believers saw an end to these shadows of good things, by coming to Him in whom all figures and shadows end, is evident by the words of the apostle Paul: "For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to every one that believeth."[3] "But now hath he obtained a ministry the more excellent, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which hath been enacted upon better promises."[4] "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day or a new moon or a sabbath day: which are a shadow of the things to come; but the body is Christ's."[5] And the same

[1] Luke 9: 23. [2] Luke 21: 36. [3] Romans 10: 4.
[4] Hebrews 8: 6. [5] Colossians 2: 16, 17.

apostle thus expostulated with some who had fallen from the true faith in these respects: "But now that ye have come to know God . . . how turn ye back again to the weak and beggarly rudiments, whereunto ye desire to be in bondage over again? Ye observe days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid of you, lest by any means I have bestowed labour upon you in vain."[1]

## PLAINNESS.

Plainness and simplicity encouraged.

THE Spirit of Truth which led our early Friends to lay aside things unbecoming the Gospel of Christ still leads in the same path all who submit to its guidance; we therefore earnestly encourage all Friends to watch over themselves in this respect, and seriously to consider the plainness and simplicity which the Gospel enjoins, manifesting it in their conversation, apparel, furniture, buildings, salutation, and manner of living, exer-

[1] Galatians 4: 9, 10, 11.

cising plainness of speech without respect of persons in all their converse among men, not balking their testimony by varying their language according to their company.

Immoderation in lawful things to be avoided.

We tenderly advise that Friends avoid immoderation in the use of lawful things, which though innocent in themselves may thereby become hurtful; and that they endeavor to maintain a consistent bearing as members of the Religious Society of Friends in their business relations, as well as in every other walk in life, remembering that to uphold the standard of simplicity as shown to them, our forefathers patiently suffered long imprisonments and great persecutions; being convinced that it was their duty thus to bear a testimony against the vain spirit of the world.

Consistent bearing in business relations.

The example of our blessed Saviour, his immediate followers, and virtuous and holy men in all ages, ought to make a due impression on every considerate mind, and especially on such as have the advantage of a guarded education.

Exhortation to sobriety of life.

We desire that our members may so realize the saving power of the grace of God that they will be enabled to deny all worldly allurements, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, that they may

adorn the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in all things; so may they feel his blessing and be instrumental in his hand for the good of others.

## WAR.

Faithful testimony to be maintained.

FRIENDS are exhorted to adhere faithfully to our ancient testimony against wars and fightings, and in no way to unite with any warlike measures, either offensive or defensive: that by the inoffensiveness of our conduct we may convincingly demonstrate ourselves to be subjects of the Messiah's peaceful reign, and be instrumental in the promotion thereof toward its desired completion when, according to ancient prophecy, "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea,"[1] and its inhabitants shall learn war no more.

We fervently recommend to the deep attention of all our members that they be re-

[1] Habakkuk 2: 14.

ligiously guarded against approving of or participating in military operations, paying taxes levied for the express purpose of war, or assisting in conveying military stores: and that they labor to experience a settlement on the sure foundation of unchangeable truth, whereby through the prevalence of Christian love and good will to man we may demonstrate that the kingdom we seek is not of this world, but a kingdom and government whose subjects are free indeed, redeemed from those captivating lusts whence come wars and fightings.

Caution against aiding military operations.

A living concern for the advancement of the peaceable kingdom of Christ continuing with us, a fervent desire prevails that the members of our Religious Society should carefully avoid engaging in any trade or business promotive of war, or in any way sharing or participating in the spoils of war; that through close attention to the monitions of Divine grace they may be preserved in a conduct consistent with our holy profession; not at all doubting that He who is the source of all wisdom and power will continue to carry on His blessed cause of peace in the earth.

Avoidance of trade or business promotive of war.

Arbitration between nations.

Friends are recommended to use their influence in favor of arbitration as a means of settling differences between nations.

Capital punishment.

We earnestly desire that capital punishment shall cease, and advise our members to bear a faithful testimony in this direction.

## OATHS.

Exhortation to the maintenance of the testimony.

Our members are exhorted faithfully to maintain our Christian testimony against the burden, administration, and imposition of oaths, according to the express command of Jesus: "I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by the heaven, for it is the throne of God; nor by the earth, for it is the foot-stool of his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, for thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your speech be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; and whatsoever

is more than these is of evil."[1] And also according to the injunction of the apostle James: "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by the heaven, nor by the earth, nor by any other oath: but let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay; that ye fall not under judgment."[2]

Avoidance of stations tending to violation of testimony.

Friends in all places are exhorted carefully to avoid electing or promoting their brethren to such stations in civil government as may subject them to the temptation of violating this testimony; and where any members show an inclination or desire to solicit or accept such offices, timely care should be taken to caution them against it. In the execution of instruments of writing requiring witnesses, it is recommended that Friends endeavor to procure such persons for this purpose as will attest the same by affirmation.

Attesting papers by affirmation.

[1] Matthew 5: 34, 35, 36, 37. [2] James 5: 12.

## INTOXICANTS AND NARCOTICS.

Advice against use of.

WE earnestly and lovingly advise our members to abstain from the use of all intoxicants, either as a drink or in the preparation of food, and to use their influence to induce others to do likewise; to avoid frequenting places where such drinks are sold, and gatherings wherein they are likely to give countenance to their use; that they do not engage either in the manufacture, sale, importation, or distillation of any alcoholic liquors, unless it be for medicinal purposes, or use in the arts; and that they abstain from renting their property or furnishing any material for a purpose whereby our testimony against intoxicating drinks will be violated, or doing aught that will in any way compromise this testimony.

Avoidance of places where sold.

Not to engage in manufacture, sale, etc.

Not to rent properties for, etc.

Treatment of those who violate the testimony.

If any member become addicted to the use of intoxicants, and uphold his course, or sign applications for licenses to sell the same, rent his property for such purpose, or engage in the business in violation of

our testimony, it should concern the Monthly Meeting to which such person belongs, tenderly to advise with him as to his course, and if after earnest labor he still continues in the practice, the meeting may testify its disunity with him.

Advice against license system.

As the granting of licenses to sell intoxicants is contrary to the best interests of society, Friends are earnestly entreated to bear a faithful testimony, by precept and example, against a system which gives to individuals the sanction of government to engage in such a business.

Advice against use of tobacco.

As the use of tobacco is injurious in its effects, especially upon the young, it is earnestly advised that Friends abstain, and encourage their children and those under their care to abstain, from the use of this narcotic in any of its various forms; and also that Friends shall not engage in its cultivation, manufacture or sale.

Caution as to use of, as medicine.

Realizing that danger attends the use of all intoxicants, narcotics and opiates, Friends are advised to be cautious in their use as medicine, since the appetite acquired grows with the indulgence.

## GAMING AND DIVERSIONS.

As our time passeth swiftly away, and our delight ought to be in the law of the Lord, we tenderly entreat all to submit to its restraining influence, which if lived under will lead us to recognize and avoid the great temptations and immorality surrounding the stage, the corrupt associations and debasing influences of horse-racing, and of lotteries, wagering, or any other species of gambling.

It is earnestly advised that a watchful care be exercised over our members, to call them away from these things to that purity of life which is essential to their well-being.

## SECRET SOCIETIES.

Caution against.

UNDER a tender concern for the preservation of our members in that purity and simplicity which become our Christian profession, we earnestly caution them against connecting themselves with societies requiring of their members a pledge of secrecy. These frequently draw their members away from their families and their business into places and practices inimical to their best interests, and may also lessen their interest in their religious meetings. The convivial meetings of some of these societies, their ostentatious processions, and high sounding titles, are inconsistent with our religious profession. Our Divine Master encouraged his disciples to stand as a city set upon a hill, which could not be hid. They were to let their light shine before men, that others seeing their good works, might glorify our Father who is in Heaven. Overseers and other concerned Friends are advised to extend timely caution and admonition to all cases where any of our members have joined such societies, and may be in danger of thus being led astray by them.

Overseers, etc., to extend care.

## CONDUCT AND CONVERSATION.

Faithfulness enjoined.

WHATEVER exercises we may meet with on account of a faithful testimony to the Truth, in all godliness of conversation, and to the end that we may not faint in our minds, let us consider the Captain of our salvation, who endured the contradiction of sinners, bearing his cross and despising the shame, that following him and under his banner fighting the good fight of faith, we may finally obtain the crown of righteousness which fadeth not away.

Exhortation against tale-bearing and detraction.

Friends are earnestly exhorted to maintain a strict watch over themselves and each other against the subtle and mischievous spirit of tale-bearing and detraction, the manifest tendency of which is to lay waste the unity of the body by sowing the seeds of disesteem, strife and discord among brethren and neighbors, as well as to unfit those who either propagate or listen to evil reports for being of that service to the person reflected upon which they might be if the order pre-

scribed by our blessed Lord to his church was strictly observed, viz.: "If thy brother sin against thee, go show him his fault between thee and him alone; if he hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother."[1]

Caution against dissensions.

It is advised that when there is any appearance of dissension and variance, or of unkind resentment and shyness among our members, the parties be timely and tenderly apprised of the danger to which they thereby expose both themselves and others, and earnestly exhorted to the mutual condescension and forgiveness becoming Christ's followers, whose mission should be the promotion of peace on earth and good-will amongst men.

Caution against sorcery.

Members of our Religious Society are advised against applying to those who by any art or skill whatsoever pretend to a knowledge of future events, of hidden transactions, or of the place where things lost or stolen may be found; and shall any of our members pursue such a course or make pretence to any such art or skill they should receive the attention of the Monthly Meeting.

Disorderly conduct, etc. to have care.

If any of our members be guilty of immoral or disorderly conduct, of notorious crimes, or of such unseemly practices as

[1] Matthew 18: 15.

shall occasion public scandal, they shall be visited or labored with by the overseers or other concerned Friends to endeavor to convince them of their serious deviation from our good order, and such offenders, if brought to a sense of their error, ought without improper delay to remove the cause of offence, as far as they have ability, and endeavor to order their lives consistently with our holy profession.

**Blasphemy.** If any one in membership with us blaspheme, or speak profanely of Almighty God, Christ Jesus, or the Holy Spirit, or shall deny the divinity of Christ, the immediate revelation of the Holy Spirit, or the inspiration of the Scriptures, he ought to be tenderly treated with for his instruction, and the convincement of his understanding, that he may experience repentance and forgiveness.

## PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

Exhortation against vanities and ensnaring corruptions.

In much love to our young people we exhort them to avoid the many vanities and ensnaring corruptions to which they are exposed. It is written, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."[1] Take the advice of godly parents, guardians and friends, ever remembering that next to our Creator children ought to obey their parents, and that disobedience to them is a breach of the moral law, and always offensive in the Divine sight. Submit to their reasonable requirings with cheerfulness, though these may sometimes thwart your own inclinations, and answer not frowardly or crossly. They watched over you and took care of you when you were utterly unable to help or take care of yourselves; why then should you grieve or wound their anxious minds by running into vain and expensive fashions, associating with corrupt or frivolous persons, wasting precious time in idle conversation and harmful diversions; all of which, we have no doubt, the Divine monitor in your own breasts often pleads

[1] Matthew 4: 10.

against, and shows to be destructive of your peace.

Exhortation to simplicity in dress, etc.

We beseech you to attend to this Inspeaking Word, and dutifully yield to the tender advice of your friends. Shrink not from the cross of Christ in your garb, language or manners, but through a subjection of your wills to the Divine will in these and all other respects walk answerably to the purity of our profession, and the simplicity and spirituality of our worship; so may you be instructive examples to serious inquirers after truth. To walk close with God individually means greater strength for accepted work, wiser discriminations of duty, and a refuge when sorrows and trials assail us. It gives a calm assurance which few things can disturb. "Remember, O my soul, the quietude of those in whom Christ governs."

Habits of industry advised.

Friends are advised to bring up their children to habits of industry, placing them with sober and exemplary persons for instruction in such occupations as are consistent with our religious principles and testimonies.

Children to be placed with Friends.

And when it is necessary for them to leave home, let them board if practicable in a Friends' family, so that their surroundings and intercourse may tend to preserve them in a becoming conduct and demeanor.

And it is desired that those whose circumstances furnish ability for instructing the children of members less affluent in useful and suitable employments, may extend to them such aid and encouragement as will remove every reason for placing them with those not in membership with us.

Those able, to assist less affluent.

## THE SCRIPTURES.

We tenderly and earnestly advise and exhort all parents and heads of families that they endeavor to instruct their children and families in the doctrines and precepts of the Christian religion as contained in the Scriptures; and that they incite them to the diligent and reverent reading of those excellent writings, which set forth the miraculous conception, birth, holy life, wonderful works, blessed example, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and to educate their children in the belief of the inward manifestation and operation of the Holy Spirit on their own minds, which is the fundamental principle of our Society, that they may reap the benefit and advantage thereof for their own peace and everlasting happiness.

Reading of the Scriptures encouraged.

Fundamental principle of Friends.

## CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

Liberty of conscience.

LIBERTY of conscience being the common right of all men, and particularly essential to the well-being of religious societies, we hold it to be indispensably incumbent upon us to maintain it inviolably amongst ourselves; and therefore advise and exhort all in profession with us to decline the acceptance of any office or station in civil government, the duties of which are inconsistent with our religious principles, or in the exercise of which they may be, or think themselves to be, under the necessity of exacting of their brethren any compliance against which we are conscientiously scrupulous.

Caution as to accepting office.

Friends' belief concerning Peace.

We believe that we are called to show to the world in life and practice that the blessed reign of the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, is begun, which will, we believe, proceed until it attains its completion in the earth, when, according to the prophecies of Isaiah and Micah, "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."[1] We cannot, therefore, consistently join with such as form combinations of

[1] Isaiah 2 : 4.

a hostile nature against any, nor can we unite with or encourage such as revile or asperse those in authority. It is written, "Thou shalt not speak evil of a ruler of thy people."[1]

Respect for those in authority.

## TRADE.

Caution against an inordinate desire for riches.

We affectionately desire that Friends may wait for Divine counsel in all their engagements, and not suffer their minds to be hurried away by an inordinate desire for worldly riches; remembering the observation of the Apostle in his day, so often sorrowfully verified in ours, that "They that desire to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts."[2] Even when riches to any extraordinary degree have been amassed by the successful industry of parents, how often have they proved like wings to their children, carrying them beyond the limitations of Truth into liberties repugnant to our religious testimonies, and sometimes into undertakings which have terminated in irreparable damage to their temporal affairs, if not an entire forgetfulness of the great work of the soul's salvation.

[1] Acts 23 : 5. [2] I. Timothy 6 : 9.

Caution against hazardous enterprises.

It is earnestly desired that Friends be careful to avoid all pursuit after the things of this world, by such ways and means as depend too much on hazardous enterprises; but rather labor to content themselves with such a plain way and manner of living as is most agreeable to the self-denying principle which we profess, and most conducive to that tranquillity of mind which is inseparable from the right enjoyment even of temporal things. It is advised that where any among us err, or are in danger of erring in these respects, they be faithfully and timely admonished.

Advice against businesses beyond ability to manage.

Being earnestly concerned that the service of our religious Society may not be obstructed, or its reputation dishonored by any imprudence of its members in their worldly engagements, we recommend to all that they be careful not to venture upon such business as they do not well understand, nor launch out in trade beyond their abilities, and at the risk of others, especially on the credit which may be derived from a profession of the Truth; but that they bound their engagements by their means, and when they enter into contracts or make promises, that they endeavor on all occasions strictly to fulfil them.

Contracts to be strictly fulfilled.

Friends are recommended frequently to inspect the state of their affairs, and to keep their accounts clearly and accurately, that they may thus more easily know whether they live within the bounds of their circumstances, and that the settlement of their estates after death may be less perplexing. It is also recommended that when any find they have not, or are in danger of not having more property left than is sufficient to discharge their debts, they promptly disclose their circumstances to some judicious Friends and ask their advice how to act.

Affairs to be frequently inspected, and accurate accounts kept.

Friends to be consulted.

When overseers or other concerned Friends have reason to fear that any of our members are declining in their circumstances and likely to fail, it is recommended that such be seasonably counseled with.

Counsel to be extended.

When it is known that any member of our Society has become unable to discharge his obligations, the Overseers should, unless after consideration they believe such action unnecessary or inexpedient, inform the Preparative or Monthly Meeting. Upon receipt of such information the Monthly Meeting should appoint a committee to inquire into the circumstances of the case, and upon their report, take such further action as may appear proper.

Duty of overseers.

Monthly Meeting action.

Assignments to be without condition, etc.

We urge upon the attention of Friends that assignments of property for the benefit of creditors be without condition or reservation; and that, when practicable, the creditors be consulted as to the person to be appointed assignee; that when a Friend accepts the office of trustee or assignee, he be active in collecting the effects of the estate, and prompt in making distribution, and that trustees of all kinds be careful to keep trust funds clearly separate from their personal estates.

Advice to trustees and assignees.

Caution to managers of corporations.

We desire to warn our members who are managers or stockholders of incorporated companies, to be careful how they assume that acts which would be improper for them as individuals are allowable in such companies.

Subscriptions, etc., not to be received from.

Our meetings should not receive subscriptions, donations, or bequests from persons who have fallen short in the payment of their debts until they shall have paid off their deficiencies, or been voluntarily released therefrom by their creditors; for it should be remembered that though in such cases the person may have been legally discharged, the property he may afterwards acquire is not properly his own till the former debts have been fairly paid to the satisfaction of the creditors.

Just debts to be paid when able.

We caution all in membership with us to be careful how they enter into joint obligations with others under the plea of rendering acts of kindness; many by so doing have been suddenly ruined, and their families reduced to deplorable circumstances.

Caution against joint obligations.

## ARBITRATION.

When differences arise between any of our members about property, it will usually be best to proceed substantially as follows; and we should endeavor to pursue a similar course where we have differences with persons not members of our Society.

Mode advised in settlement of differences.

Let the party who thinks himself aggrieved calmly and kindly ask the other to comply with the demand for settlement. If this be refused, the complainant, or if he lives at too great a distance, some friend whom he may authorize, should take with him one or two of the overseers, or other discreet persons, and in their presence, repeat the request.

If this should fail of the desired effect, let the parties choose a suitable number

Arbitrators advised.

of arbitrators, and mutually engage, by suitable written instrument, to abide by their determination.

Duties of arbitrators.

When arbitrators are chosen they should, as speedily as circumstances will admit, appoint a time and place of meeting, and attend to the business without unnecessary delay, giving the parties fair and full hearing in the presence of each other, but listening to neither apart; they should shun all previous information respecting the case, or, having heard anything on it, endeavor to stand unbiased thereby, and should reject no evidence proposed if considered by either arbitrator as pertinent. They should not suffer their own opinions to be known till they have carefully considered the subject and come to a decision, and in their award they need not assign a reason for their determinations.

Arbitrators may take legal advice.

When arbitrators are at a loss for want of legal knowledge in the matter referred to them, it may be proper for them, at the joint expense of the parties, to take the opinion of counsel learned in the law, in order to come to a proper judgment. They ought not to consider themselves as advocates for those by whom they are chosen, but as friends of

Advice to arbitrators.

both parties, whose duty it is to judge righteously; thus they may the better answer the end of their appointment, and be helpful in conciliating the minds of the parties.

Ministers as arbitrators advised against.

It is desired that persons differing about worldly affairs shall, as little as may be, engage Friends in the ministry as arbitrators.

Advice against going to law.

It is further earnestly advised that Friends do not go to law, particularly one with another. If, for any reason, one should think himself under necessity to bring an action against a fellow-member, let him consult the overseers or other judicious Friends before proceeding. Where loss or responsibility might result by delay, the Monthly Meeting should hold members excused if they proceed differently from the course defined in this chapter, provided they respect in their action the spirit of the testimony we thus present, and proceed in love and moderation, without anger, animosity, or purpose of oppression.

Cases excepted.

## WILLS.

Disposition of property to be considered while in health.

REALIZING the uncertainty of life, it is affectionately advised that those who are in the possession of property shall carefully consider whilst in health, the just disposition of it, regarding themselves as stewards only, and remembering their responsibility for the right use of all which has been placed in their care.

Ancient advice renewed.

The advice long contained in our Book of Discipline, addressed to those who have property which should be disposed of by will, rather than through the ordinary distribution of the law, is here renewed. It is tenderly advised that such Friends make their wills in time of health and strength of judgment; and therein direct their substance as in justice and wisdom may be to their satisfaction and peace, laying aside all resentment though occasion therefor may have been given, lest it should go with them to the grave, remembering we all stand in need of mercy and forgiveness. Making such wills in due time can shorten no one's days, but the omis-

sion or delay thereof to a time of sickness, when the mind should not be diverted from a consideration of the approaching solemn period of life, has often proved very injurious to many, and been the occasion of creating animosities in families, which the seasonable performance of this duty might have effectually prevented.

The caution is added that the drawing of wills be not left to incompetent persons, but that due care be taken to employ for the purpose those skillful and of good repute.

Wills to be drawn by competent persons.

## SCHOOLS.

As the education of our youth in piety, virtue, and useful learning under the care of prudent, religious persons, has ever been one of our important concerns, children being much influenced by their surroundings, it is renewedly desired that Quarterly, Monthly, and Preparative Meetings be incited to proper exertions for the institution and support of schools.

Institution and support of.

Funds to be raised.

It is therefore advised that where schools can be maintained, funds be raised in the meeting to aid in their establishment and support; that committees be appointed in Monthly or Preparative Meetings to have the oversight thereof, and that they employ teachers of our religious persuasion whenever practicable, who are not only capable of instructing the children in useful learning, but also of training them in the knowledge of their duty to God and toward one another.

Committees to be appointed.

Friends as teachers.

First-day schools.

The importance of training our children and youth in a knowledge of our religious principles and a love for our testimonies, being widely felt, Preparative and Monthly Meetings are recommended, when a living concern arises, to establish and encourage First-day schools within their limits, over which a guarded care should be extended through committees appointed by the meetings.

## BOOKS.

PARENTS, heads of families, and guardians are earnestly exhorted, to abstain, and as much as in them lies, prevent the children under their care and tuition from having or reading books or other publications tending to prejudice the profession of the Christian religion, or to weaken their faith in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures or of the saving truths declared in them. Our members are advised to bear a faithful testimony against all forms of sensational and corrupt publications; and, in order to encourage a taste for good literature and to discourage pernicious reading, they are earnestly exhorted to provide good books and reading matter for their children and families, and frequently to read with them.

Exhortation against pernicious reading.

Good reading to be provided.

If any of our members print or publish any writing which tends to excite disunity or discord among us, they should be earnestly labored with, and if they cannot be convinced of the impropriety of their conduct, the monthly meeting to which they belong may declare its disunity with them.

Writings tending to disunity.

## MEETING FUNDS.

**To be annually raised.**

A FUND being necessary to meet the expenditures of the Society, it is directed that the same be annually raised by a collection from each Quarterly Meeting, to be paid to the treasurer appointed by the Yearly Meeting, and subject to be drawn out by its direction, or by that of the Representative Committee, as the exigencies of the Society may require.

**Quotas.**

Any re-arrangement of the quotas of the several Quarterly Meetings shall be produced by a Committee of the Yearly Meeting appointed for that purpose.

The present arrangement is as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia Quarter | to pay $20.00 | in every $100. |
| Abington Quarter | to pay $14.50 | in every $100. |
| Bucks Quarter | to pay $14.50 | in every $100. |
| Concord Quarter | to pay $14.50 | in every $100. |
| Caln Quarter | to pay $ 2.00 | in every $100. |
| Western Quarter | to pay $13.50 | in every $100. |
| Southern Quarter | to pay $ 2.00 | in every $100. |
| Burlington Quarter | to pay $ 5.00 | in every $100. |
| Haddonfield Quarter | to pay $ 6.00 | in every $100. |
| Salem Quarter | to pay $ 7.00 | in every $100. |
| Fishing Creek H. Y. Meeting | to pay $ 1.00 | in every $100. |
| | $100.00 | |

It is advised that each Monthly and Preparative Meeting raise and maintain a fund sufficient for its needs, and appoint a treasurer to have charge thereof, whose accounts shall be settled annually by two or more Friends appointed for the purpose, who shall report their condition to the meeting.

Monthly Meeting funds, etc.

## TRUSTS AND TITLES TO PROPERTY.

QUARTERLY, Monthly and Preparative Meetings are directed to make careful inspection annually into the situation of the titles of the meeting properties, burial grounds and other estates which have been vested in trustees and by them held for the use and benefit of any of those meetings or of the Society at large; and, if it should appear needful from the death of any trustee or trustees, or other cause, due and seasonable care should be taken to appoint others to the trust, and to have the new conveyance duly recorded; that future difficulties and the danger of being deprived of such estates may be avoided.

Annual inspection directed.

Timely renewal of trusts.

Conveyances to be recorded.

## MEMBERS IN NEED.

Necessary aid to be extended.

It is recommended to each Monthly Meeting to have a standing committee of men and women Friends whose duty it shall be to see, by visits or otherwise, that advice and relief are seasonably extended to members in need, and assistance afforded them in such business as they are fitted for; and the expense which their support and the education of their children necessarily occasions, shall be drawn from the treasury of the meeting, upon the order of the committee, remembering that in exercising this benevolent and Christian care, the names or situation of such members should not be exposed.

Cases not to be exposed.

## BURIALS.

Moderation advised.

It is affectionately advised that Friends keep to true moderation in all things appertaining to interments; that they avoid the custom of wearing or giving mourning habits, the use of elaborate caskets, and all ostentatious display or extravagant expenditure.

Funerals from our meeting-houses encouraged.

It is recommended that Friends encourage the holding of funerals in our meeting-houses, and that one or more suitable friends be appointed to be present to see that good order is observed, and that the body be removed for burial at a suitable time.

Pause at grave, etc.

It is further recommended that at all interments time be allowed for a solemn pause, both before and after the coffin is lowered into the grave, and that forms and observances not consistent with our testimonies be avoided.

Moderation in needful refreshment.

As some who attend burials may have a considerable distance to travel and need bodily refreshment, it is earnestly advised that in all preparations for such occasions moderation be observed, and that Friends

demean themselves in all respects with gravity.

Committees for care of burial-grounds.

To prevent improper interments among us, it is recommended that two or more Friends be appointed by Monthly or Preparative Meetings to have the care of our several burying-grounds, and that no person not in membership be buried therein without a permit in writing signed by one or two of these Friends, who should also take care that our burial-grounds are properly enclosed and kept in good order.

Provisions concerning marks of graves.

That no costly or showy monuments be affixed to graves in any of them, it is directed that the size be kept within the limits of eighteen (18) inches in width, nine (9) inches in thickness, and ten (10) inches in height above the level of the ground, with only such inscription as is necessary for identification. But Monthly or Preparative Meetings may regulate the size of grave stones in their grounds, provided the dimensions here stated be not exceeded.

## PARTICULAR ADVICES.

Where and when to be read.

THE following particular advices to our members are directed to be read seriously and deliberately in Quarterly and Monthly Meetings at least once a year. And Monthly Meetings are encouraged to read, or have read in subordinate meetings as way may open, these or other parts of the Discipline, with the caution to present them always weightily and earnestly, and at times suitable to the purpose.

Conduct of meetings.

In conducting the affairs of our meetings Friends are exhorted to do so in the peaceable spirit and wisdom of Jesus, with dignity, forbearance, and love of each other. Those who may favor the adoption of any measure should not, after having fully expressed their views, manifest an over-anxious concern that they should prevail, and those who may not feel prepared for the adoption of a proposition should not endeavor to prevent it by undue opposition.

Waiting in stillness.

Frequent waiting in stillness on the Lord for the renewal of strength keeps the mind at home in its proper place and duty, and out of unprofitable association and converse. Much hurt may be done to the religious mind by excessive and absorbing attention to outward affairs, for this, if suffered to prevail, benumbs the soul, and prevents its ascending in living aspirations toward the Fountain of Eternal Life.

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Truth is safe in its guidance.

It being evident that where the manifestations and restraints of the Spirit of truth are duly prized and regarded, it leads out of a bondage to the spirit of this world, and preserves the minds of its followers from many fettering and disqualifying entanglements; and contrariwise that inordinate love and pursuit of worldly riches often betray those who are captivated by them into many difficulties and dangers, to the great obstruction of the work of Truth in the heart, it is affectionately desired that the counsel and gracious promise of our blessed Master to his followers may be borne in remembrance by us: "Seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness; and all those things shall be added unto you."[1]

[1] Matthew 6: 33.

Music, dancing, card-playing.

Our members are earnestly entreated to consider weightily the disposal of their time, that, receiving it as a gift of God for the stewardship of which an account must be rendered, they may not lightly squander it in music, nor indulge in the questionable diversions of card-playing and dancing, for we believe that attention given to these things has often diverted the mind from the higher purposes of life, and dwarfed the growth in religious experience.

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Moderation and simplicity.

It has ever been a principle of the Society of Friends to live in all ways in moderation and simplicity. Thus the powers granted us may be put to their true use, and by proper industry and economy, and the avoidance of excess and vain display we may be able to meet our obligations, maintain those dependent upon us, and aid in our measure those who need a helping hand. The neglect of this truly Christian rule of life leads inevitably into difficulty and embarrassment, and, often, to disaster and the reproach of the profession which we make.

Intoxicants and narcotics.

As it is our duty to strive to preserve unimpaired the strength, physical, mental, and spiritual, which has been mercifully given us, it is an earnest exhortation to all that they not only abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors as a drink, not allowing themselves to become concerned in their manufacture or sale for that purpose, but that they be very cautious also in their use as medicine; and further, that, as way may appear consistently with our profession, they endeavor to spread these salutary principles. And believing the use of tobacco to be not only offensive, but generally injurious, especially to the young, it is affectionately advised that Friends abstain from its cultivation, manufacture, sale, and use; and also that in the use of other narcotics, regarded as medicines, great care be exercised.

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Marriage.

As suitable marriage connections greatly promote happiness and comfort in life, it is earnestly advised that when any of our members are inclined to marry they seek for Divine counsel and direction therein, and that their parents or guardians be early acquainted with their prospect. Let marriages be ac-

complished in an orderly manner, gravely and weightily; let moderation be observed, and no cause for reproach occur, but let all behave with such sobriety as becomes a people loving God. The testimony of Friends concerning marriage is earnestly commended to all, that it be regarded as an engagement solemnly to be made in the Divine presence by the parties thereto, who, proceeding in sincerity and truth, must seek Divine blessing and approval, which, if graciously bestowed, can receive no increase or enhancement through the intervention or assumed authority of human ministry.

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Gifts and legacies.

All public gifts and legacies should be strictly applied to the uses intended by the donors, or, if any unforeseen circumstances should render this difficult or impracticable, an early application should be made to the Representative Committee for its advice or aid. Monthly and other meetings of business are cautioned to see that timely care is taken for the renewal of trusts, and they are exhorted to be diligent and particular as to careful investment of trust funds.

Inspection of outward affairs.

Friends are earnestly advised to inspect the state of their outward affairs at least once in the year, and to consider carefully, whilst in health, the just disposition of their estates by will or otherwise.

## QUERIES.

When and where read.

THE following Queries are all to be read, deliberately considered, and answered, once a year, in those Quarterly Meetings which next precede the sitting of the Yearly Meeting, and in the Preparative and Monthly Meetings reporting to them, and the summary answers thereto adopted by the Quarterly Meetings are to be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting, so that it may be informed of the general condition of the Society.

First, second and eighth, special rule as to.

The First, Second, and Eighth Queries are also to be read, considered, and answered in the two Quarterly Meetings preceding the one before mentioned, and in the Preparative and Monthly Meetings which report thereto, but they are not required to be read or answered in the Quarterly Meetings immedi-

ately following the Yearly Meeting, or in the subordinate meetings reporting to them.

The reading and answering of any of the Queries is not enjoined upon Preparative Meetings identical in membership with their Monthly Meetings.

*First Query.* Are all our religious meetings for worship and for discipline regularly held? Do Friends duly attend? Is the hour observed, and is the behavior of those assembled becoming?

*Second Query.* Are love and unity maintained amongst you? Are tale-bearing and detraction discouraged? When differences arise, are endeavors used speedily to end them?

*Third Query.* Do you maintain a faithful testimony in favor of the free ministry of the gospel, and against the system of a professional ministry?

*Fourth Query.* Do you bring up those under your care in plainness of speech, behavior, and apparel? Do you encourage them in the frequent reverent reading of the Holy Scriptures, and guard them from pernicious reading and the corrupting influences of the world? And are you, yourselves, good examples in these particulars?

*Fifth Query.* Are you clear of the manufacture, sale, and use of intoxicating liquors as a drink, and careful to discourage the same? Are you cautious in their use as medicine, clear of signing applications for license to make or sell them as drink, and of renting your property for these purposes? Do you avoid the unnecessary frequenting of taverns, and the attendance of places of harmful diversion? Do you maintain moderation and simplicity at marriages and funerals, and on other occasions?

*Sixth Query.* Do you take care of such of your members as need aid, and assist them in business if they are capable of it? Are their children freely instructed to fit them for suitable occupation and self-support? And are any of these or other Friends' children placed from amongst Friends?

*Seventh Query.* Are you careful to live within the bounds of your circumstances, without ostentation or vain display, and to keep to moderation in your trade or business? Are you punctual to your promises, prompt and just in the payment of your debts, and are such as give reasonable ground for concern on these accounts, seasonably advised or labored with, for their preservation or recovery?

*Eighth Query.* Do you take due care to treat with offenders in the spirit of meekness and love, without partiality or unnecessary delay, in order for their help, endeavoring to reach a judgment in the authority of Truth?

*Ninth Query.* Do you maintain a faithful testimony in favor of peace and arbitration, and against war and the preparations for and excitements to it, fraudulent or clandestine trade, oaths, and all forms of lotteries and gambling?

*Tenth Query.* Has due care been taken to record each birth, removal and death that has occurred among the members of your meeting during the last year? Has a duplicate or copy of each marriage certificate been carefully made and preserved? Have all disused or completed record or minute books of the meeting been deposited in a place of safety, approved by the meeting?

*Eleventh Query.* Are there First-day Schools held in connection with your meetings? Are they under care of committees appointed in the Preparative or Monthly Meetings, and are they conducted in accord with our principles and testimonies?

*Twelfth Query.* Are there schools established amongst you for the education of

your children, under the charge of teachers in membership with us, and superintended by committees appointed in your business meetings? Do the teachers and pupils attend mid-week meetings?

*Thirteenth Query.* What changes have been made in the times and places of holding your meetings, and what new meetings have been established?

*Fourteenth Query.* Are the several Queries regularly read and answered as directed?

[NOTE.—In connection with the 11th and 12th Queries full and orderly returns as to numbers of teachers, pupils, etc., are directed to be sent up through the several meetings to the Yearly Meeting, according to such form and arrangement as may be approved by the Yearly Meeting.]

# MARRIAGE.

THE Society of Friends has ever regarded the marriage contract as one of a religious nature, and as affecting all the relations of life. It is therefore earnestly and affectionately advised, that, previously to making any procedure in this important concern, our members seriously and humbly wait upon the Lord for counsel and direction. When favored with satisfactory clearness therein, they should acquaint their parents or guardians with their prospect and seek their advice. In this way they may be preserved from unsuitable connections. Parents and concerned Friends should discourage the marriage of our members with those of other principles and professions of religion; because unhappiness often results from want of harmony and sympathy in religious convictions, and serious difficulties may arise in the training of children.

View of Friends concerning.

Divine counsel to be sought.

Advice of parents to be sought.

With those of other professions discouraged.

The following are principles upon which the good order in our Religious Society, in relation to the accomplishment of marriage, is founded:—

Consent of parents or guardians.

*First.* That the consent of parents or guardians should be early obtained by the parties, in order to preserve harmony, peace and unity in families ; and to guard against hasty and improper connections.

Proposal to be laid before Monthly Meeting.

*Second.* That the Society may extend a watchful care over its members, and that Friends may proceed commendably in this important connection, the proposal of marriage should be laid before the Monthly Meeting.

Assistance of priest or minister to be avoided.

*Third.* That Friends maintain a testimony in support of the free ministry of the Gospel, by avoiding the assistance of a priest or minister in accomplishing this solemn engagement.

Order to be followed.

For the purpose of maintaining these principles and testimonies, it is agreed that the following order be observed in the accomplishment of marriage : —

Notice of intention.

The man and woman making the proposal of marriage should communicate their intentions to the Monthly Meeting in writing, signed by them both, substantially as follows : —

To . . . . . Monthly Meeting of Friends.

With Divine permission, and Friends' approbation, we intend marriage with each other.

A. B.
D. E.

If they have parents or guardians, the consent of these, when it may reasonably be obtained, should be expressed in the meeting, or certified thereto in writing.

Consent of parents to be presented.

If the persons belong to the same monthly meeting, a committee of men and women Friends should be appointed to inquire respecting their clearness of other similar engagements, and to take any needful care that the provisions of state laws in such cases will be complied with; and that the rights of children by a previous marriage (where there are such) are legally secured. Where either is a member of another monthly meeting, he or she should, in ample time for inquiry, ask therefrom a certificate of membership, and of clearness of other marriage engagements; and in this case a committee appointed as above, directed by the meeting having general charge, may, at its discretion, consist of Friends of but one sex.

Committee of inquiry.

Rights of children by previous marriage.

When not members of same Monthly Meeting.

Monthly Meeting's Procedure.

If at the next meeting, the committee shall report that inquiry has been made, and that no obstruction to further proceeding appears, and where one party is a member of another meeting, if a satisfactory report shall be received therefrom, the Monthly Meeting should grant the parties liberty to accomplish their marriage according to our order, at a public meeting for worship, or at a meeting at such other time and place as it may approve, except on the First day of the week, and should appoint two Friends of each sex to have care and oversight thereof. Nominations of such overseers may be made in writing, and those so proposed, if thought suitable by the meeting, may be appointed.

Time and place.

Committee of oversight.

May be proposed.

Order at marriage gathering.

A marriage having been authorized, and the meeting gathered at which it is to be accomplished, it is advised that a season of quiet solemnity be observed, after which the parties to the marriage should rise in the presence of the assembly, and, taking each other by the hand, the man should declare audibly in words to this effect:— "In the presence of the Lord, and before this assembly, I take thee, D. E., to be my wife, promising, with Divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband until death shall separate us."

Friend's marriage ceremony.

Then the woman should, in like manner, declare: "In the presence of the Lord, and before this assembly, I take thee, A. B., to be my husband, promising, with Divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful wife until death shall separate us."

Certificate to be read and signed.

After this declaration the marriage certificate should be read by some one approved by the overseers appointed to attend the marriage, and should then be signed by the contracting parties.

Meeting to be closed.

A period of silence should follow, after which the meeting should be closed by the overseers or other Friends approved by them.

Certificates to be examined.

Marriage certificates, before they are read and signed, should be examined, and, if necessary, corrected by the overseers in charge of the marriage.

The form of the certificate shall be as follows:

Form of Certificate.

Whereas, A. B. of , in the county of , in , son of C. B. of and H. his wife; and D. E. daughter of F. E. of and M. his wife, having declared their intentions of marriage with each other, before a Monthly Meeting of the religious Society of

Form of certificate.

Friends, held at , according to the good order used among them [where the parties are under the care of parents or guardians add] and having consent of parents or guardians concerned [as the case is] their said proposal of marriage was allowed of by the said meeting.

Now these are to certify whom it may concern, that for the full accomplishment of their said intentions, this day of the month, in the year of our Lord , they, the said A. B. and D. E. appeared in a public meeting* of the said Society, held at aforesaid; and the said A. B. taking the said D. E. by the hand, did, on this solemn occasion, openly declare, that he took her, the said D. E. to be his wife, promising, with Divine assistance, to be unto her a loving and faithful husband, until death should separate them; and then, in the same assembly, the said D. E. did in like manner declare, that she took him, the said A. B. to be her husband, promising, with Divine assistance, to be unto him a loving and faithful wife, until death should sep-

*When the marriage is accomplished at a private house, instead of the words, "in a public meeting of the said Society, held at . . . . . aforesaid;" say, "at a meeting at the house of . . . . . in the . . . . . of . . . . . ."

arate them. And moreover, they, the said A. B. and D. E. (she according to the custom of marriage, assuming the name of her husband) did, as a further confirmation thereof, then and there to these presents set their hands.

A. B.
D. B.

And we whose names are also hereunto subscribed, being present at the solemnization of the said marriage and subscription, have, as witnesses thereto, set our hands, the day and year above written.

Gravity and solemnity to be observed.

It is affectionately advised that marriages be accomplished gravely, weightily and solemnly, and that the parties themselves, their parents, and others concerned take care that moderation be observed, that no reproach arise or occasion of offence be given; but that all behave with such sobriety as becomes a people fearing God. If anything to the contrary be observed, the overseers, or other concerned Friends present, ought in brotherly love to extend suitable admonition.

If otherwise overseers to admonish.

Overseers to report.

The said overseers shall report to the next Monthly Meeting whether this advice concerning good order and moderation has been observed, that the duplicate marriage cer-

tificate, or, if a duplicate has not been made, the certificate itself[a] has been delivered to the Recorder, and that the legal requirements have been complied with.

Marriage under care of meeting with a non-member.

If a person not in membership with us proposes to marry one of our members, application may be made to the overseers of the Monthly Meeting to which the member belongs, and if the said overseers are satisfied, the proposals of marriage, accompanied by their consent, may be laid before the Monthly Meeting in the usual form, and the meeting shall make inquiry, and have the same care and oversight of the marriage, proceeding in the manner prescribed by Discipline, as where both parties are members of the same Monthly Meeting.

No marriage sooner than one year.

No Monthly Meeting should entertain a proposal of marriage sooner than one year after the death of the husband or wife of either party to the marriage.

Misdemeanors not to be treasured up.

It is advised that no misdemeanor be treasured up against a person until the time of his presenting proposals of marriage, and then be brought forward, though perhaps long before known to those who make objections.

As serious consequences frequently follow to offspring from the marriage of persons

[a] See page 112, second paragraph.

nearly related by consanguinity, we cannot approve or consent to the marriage of those so near akin as first cousins. The term "first cousins" applies to every description of grandchildren descended from one common parent.

Marriage of first cousins not consented to.

Marriage being a solemn covenant for life, and the fulfilment of its obligations essential to the welfare of the family and the maintenance of Society, we cannot consent to divorce under any circumstances, or to any marriage or re-marriage in violation of this testimony; but a legal separation, without divorce, may be allowed in extreme cases.

Divorce.

Legal separation.

It is advised that Friends exercise a religious care in watching over their children, and endeavor to guard them against improper connections in marriage; that they be not anxious to obtain for them large portions, but that they encourage their marriage with persons of religious inclinations, suitable dispositions and habits of industry.

Improper connections to be guarded against.

In order as much as may be to prevent the marriage of our members with those who are not in accord with our religious principles and testimonies, parents and Friends are tenderly advised to an increasing care of the youth, early to instruct them in the principles

Care of the youth tenderly advised.

of Truth, by upright example as well as precept, impressing their minds with the duty of religiously observing them; and endeavoring to restrain them from such company as is likely to entangle their affections in an improper manner.

Our good order to be observed.

Our members are most earnestly advised, when contemplating marriage, to proceed in all cases in the good order set forth in our Discipline. If, however, notwithstanding these advices, which experience has proven to be of very great value, marriages of our members do occur contrary to our order, the Overseers should promptly visit such members in a spirit of love, and endeavor to restore them to unity and fellowship with our Society, which ever desires the temporal and spiritual welfare of all its members.

Overseers should visit those who violate.

Procedure in case of violation.

When one of our members accomplishes marriage with a person not in membership with us, and in so doing violates our testimony to the free ministry of the Gospel, or does so without observing our order in relation to the accomplishment of marriage, he should be treated with by the Overseers.

Retention of member.

If it shall appear from their report that the person sympathizes with Friends in their testimonies, expects to attend our meetings, and

desires to retain his right of membership, Monthly Meetings may retain such member, and the overseers shall report the name assumed by the wife for official record, if she be a member.

Procedure if overseers report is not satisfactory.

If, however, the report of the overseers should not satisfy the meeting, it shall appoint a committee to visit the party and extend further labor; should this prove ineffectual, the meeting may discontinue the membership of the party, who should be furnished with a copy of the concluding minute in the case, with information of his right of appeal.

Procedure where two members unite in marriage out of order.

When two of our members shall unite in marriage without observing the good order recommended by Discipline, overseers shall labor with the parties to convince them of the weight of the testimony which may have been violated, or of the importance of our order, that they may be willing to acknowledge to the Monthly Meeting that they regret having violated our Discipline, in which case the overseers shall then report the name assumed by the wife.

If, after patient labor, the efforts of the overseers shall be unavailing, they shall report the case to the Monthly Meeting, which

may discontinue the membership of both or either of the parties, who should be furnished with a copy of the concluding minute in the case, with information of their right of appeal. Or, if thought desirable, the Monthly Meeting may appoint a committee to extend further labor.

## PROCEDURE IN MEETINGS FOR DISCIPLINE.

Records to be kept.

All meetings for business should keep neat, plain and correct records of their proceedings in convenient books, with marginal references and index, and provide suitable places in which to preserve them. They are particularly advised to attend to and finish all business with care and dispatch, that it may at no time suffer by improper delay.

Business to be punctually completed.

Clerks.

A committee should be annually appointed in each Preparative, Monthly and Quarterly Meeting for the nomination of a clerk, and when needed an assistant clerk, which may

afford opportunity for their being seasonably changed, and for more of our qualified members to be exercised in these services.

Duties of Preparative Meetings.

The use and design of Preparative Meetings is, in general, to digest and prepare business, which may be proper to be laid before the Monthly Meeting, and Friends should be careful therein not to occasion unnecessary delays, or undertake to decide on any business which should claim the attention and care of Monthly Meetings; and they shall not take cognizance of proposals of marriage, this being exclusively the business of Monthly Meetings. When it is agreed that cases are to be carried forward, they should be furnished to the Monthly Meeting in writing.

Cases to be forwarded in writing.

Certificates of removal.

When men's and women's Monthly Meetings are not held together, certificates of removal prepared and approved by one meeting must be sent to the other, and if there approved, signed by the clerks of both. All certificates received must be read and minuted in both men's and women's meetings.

Inquiry to be made on application for certificates.

When a Monthly Meeting is engaged to prepare a certificate on account of the removal of a Friend to another Monthly Meeting, careful inquiry should be made

by a committee appointed for that purpose respecting the situation of his temporal affairs, and also, if single, concerning his situation in relation to marriage engagements; and if on such inquiry no impediment be found, the certificate should state that on inquiry no obstruction appears relative to his outward affairs to granting a certificate.

Acceptance of certificates of removal.

When a certificate of removal from one Monthly Meeting addressed to another is produced therein, and no sufficient objection appears, it should be accepted, and the party recorded as a member of that meeting.

Pecuniary relief needed by persons newly removed.

If any such person shall fall into circumstances requiring pecuniary relief within one year after the acceptance of his certificate, the meeting to which he has removed, should assist him, giving speedy notice thereof to the other, whereupon that meeting should immediately assume the care of him until he is again self-supporting, and repay the expense which has been incurred on his account. But if any Friend be reduced in his circumstances by fire or other sudden unavoidable losses, though it may be within one year after his removal as aforesaid, he should be kindly assisted and relieved by the meeting whereof he is a member.

Friends removing out of the limits of their Monthly Meetings for any considerable length of time, are advised to apply to their respective meetings for certificates directed to those within which they propose to sojourn or settle. If any one remove without so applying, the Monthly Meeting of which he is a member, should without improper delay, if, after the usual inquiry, no obstruction appears, send a certificate for him to the Monthly Meeting within which he has removed.

Friends removing advised to apply for certificates.

When not applied for to be sent.

When apprentices or persons under age are under the necessity of going from one place to another, their parents or guardians should apply for certificates for them recommending them to the care and oversight of the Monthly Meetings to which they remove.

Certificates for minors, etc.

It is advised that Monthly Meetings, as way may open, appoint two or more Friends to visit those who come recommended by certificate to settle amongst them.

Those bringing certificates to be visited.

Monthly Meetings are advised to take due care that certificates of removal be seasonably forwarded through the correspondents to the Monthly Meetings to which they are directed, they being the exclusive property of such meetings.

Certificates to be seasonably forwarded.

Caution advised in changing residence.

Friends are advised to be very cautious in changing their places of residence, it having been observed that the dissolving of old, and the forming of new connections, have in many instances been attended with effects prejudicial to a growth in the Truth and the service thereof, both in the heads and younger branches of families. We therefore recommend that before any determine to change their places of abode, they consult with their experienced fellow-members, and that a close attention be paid to the pointings of Divine Wisdom.

Dealing with offenders in meetings held separately.

In dealing with offenders where Monthly Meetings are not held together, the men's or women's meeting should proceed separately until a judgment is arrived at, when, if the labor shall have been effectual, a suitable minute may be made and the case closed; but if not, it should be presented to the other meeting, that if further labor be thought best it may be jointly proceeded in, and the result united with by both, which result shall be communicated to the individual by the meeting in which the case originated.

Persons under dealing not to sit in meetings for discipline.

After a charge against a member for disorderly conduct is entered on the minutes of a Monthly Meeting, he should not be per-

mitted to sit in any of our meetings for Discipline until the case is closed and the Monthly Meeting satisfied. In all cases where a Monthly Meeting apprehends itself under the necessity to discontinue the membership of a person, let such person, if the occasion and his situation will admit of it, be previously informed thereof, and when the judgment of the meeting is issued let a copy thereof be delivered to him with notification of his right of appeal. Persons who have been discontinued as members, and who incline to be reinstated, may be received as other applicants.

Procedure where membership is discontinued.

If a person whose conduct has been such as to require that he should be dealt with, reside at so great a distance that he cannot conveniently be conferred with personally, it may be done by correspondence; and when a conclusion is reached, he may be informed thereof in the same manner; or if such a person reside within the compass of another Monthly Meeting, it may be requested to treat with him according to our order, and to report the effect of its care. If this be satisfactory, the person's membership should be transferred by certificate; but if otherwise, a minute of denial may be made, and a copy thereof sent to the meeting within the

Dealing with members at a distance.

limits of which he resides, for the information of said meeting, and with a request that it be delivered to the person, with information of his right of appeal.

Disorderly persons appearing as Friends, to be admonished.

If any person appearing as a Friend come within the compass of a Monthly Meeting, not being recommended by certificate, and be of disorderly conduct, the overseers or other concerned Friends shall inquire whether or not he is a member of our Society, and if he prove so to be, admonish him; and if the occasion require it, the overseers should report the case in the usual order, and the Monthly Meeting may thereupon inform the meeting of which he is a member of the circumstances, and take the direction of said meeting for dealing further with him according to our rules in cases of that nature.

Correspondence with absent members.

As there are members of our Religious Society living beyond the limits of any Monthly Meeting, and as it is important for the maintenance of good order that Monthly Meetings should be acquainted with the situation of their members, it is advised, that each Monthly Meeting, through its correspondent or other suitable person, at least once a year, address a friendly letter to its members who are thus isolated, endeavor-

ing to ascertain whether they continue their interest in the religious principles professed by Friends, and in a good degree live in accordance therewith. Should no satisfactory reply be received for the period of five years, the Monthly Meeting shall be at liberty to make a minute declaring that they are no longer members thereof. Due effort should be made to furnish the parties with information of this action.

Treatment of those who do not reply.

It is advised that when any transgress the rules of our Discipline, they shall, without partiality, be sought and admonished in the spirit of love and Divine charity, so that it may be seen by all that the restoring spirit of meekness and Christian love abounds; and that a gospel spirit is our spring and motive, as well in discipline as in worship.

Labor to be in spirit of love.

If any case under consideration prove too weighty or difficult for a Monthly Meeting to determine, it should apply to the Quarterly Meeting for assistance, or if the circumstances be such as to require it, refer the subject thereto by minute.

Assistance of Quarterly Meeting in difficult cases.

When any Monthly or Quarterly Meeting has occasion for, and requests copies of any of, the papers, minutes, or records of another Monthly or Quarterly Meeting, it is advised that the same be granted.

Copies of records should be granted meetings.

Granting copies of minutes to individuals, discretionary.

Should differences arise among Friends, and the record thereof be made in any Monthly or Quarterly Meeting book, the granting of copies of such entries to the parties shall be discretionary with the Meeting.

Accounts of sufferings to be sent up, etc.

It is advised that Monthly and Quarterly Meetings collect and send up accounts of sufferings of their members for conscience' sake, and that they be preserved and recorded agreeably to the practice of our ancient Friends.

Correspondents to be appointed.

Duties of.

Names to be placed in Extracts.

Each Monthly and Quarterly Meeting should appoint a correspondent to whom certificates or other communications intended for the meeting should be addressed, and whose duty it is to acknowledge promptly, by letter or otherwise, the reception of such communications, and also to forward from the meeting such papers as may be placed in his charge for that purpose. The name and post office address of each correspondent shall be forwarded annually to the Yearly Meeting, and published in the Extracts.

Representatives to Quarterly and Yearly Meetings.

A suitable number of men and women shall be appointed in each Monthly Meeting to attend the service of the Quarterly Meeting as representatives, and also at least four of each sex shall be appointed in each Quar-

terly Meeting to attend the Yearly Meeting, and such representatives are encouraged to make a brief verbal report of the exercises of the meeting to which they were sent to the next session of the meeting appointing them.

Representatives encouraged to report.

And it is earnestly advised and desired that all Friends who submit to these, or any other services of the Society, be punctual in their attendance thereon; or, if prevented by sickness or any other unavoidable occurrence, that they be careful to send information thereof; also that those who are under appointments to meetings shall not withdraw therefrom before the conclusion without obtaining the meeting's consent.

Punctual discharge of appointments enjoined.

Should not withdraw without consent.

When it is thought expedient to make or alter any rule of Discipline, or when it may appear advisable to make a general revision of the Book of Discipline, the subject shall first claim the attention of a Monthly Meeting, and in case the proposition be there united with, it is to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting, and if there united with in like manner, it shall be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting for its consideration and decision.

Method of changing or revising Discipline.

All letters or papers directed to the Yearly Meeting, except from such meetings

Papers sent to Yearly Meeting to be examined.

as regularly correspond therewith, shall be first perused by a few Friends, appointed to consider and report whether the same be proper to be read in the meeting.

Certificates of visiting Friends to be read.

The certificates of Friends, members of other Yearly Meetings, who from a religious concern are drawn to attend this Yearly Meeting, are to be read therein.

Committee on Epistles, duties of.

Friends appointed to prepare epistles shall meet together before they proceed on the service, and also examine the several essays previous to their being laid before the Yearly Meeting.

Extracts to be sent to subordinate meetings.

Extracts from the minutes of the Yearly Meeting should be sent to the subordinate meetings in order that each meeting, family and adult member may have a copy thereof, to have recourse to, as occasion may require; and Monthly and Preparative Meetings are directed to exercise a care in the distribution thereof.

## RESIGNATIONS.

When a member of our Religious Society shall offer a resignation of his right of membership, it is advised that the Monthly Meeting, if way opens, appoint a committee to visit him in love and inquire into the cause of his resignation; and if his mind continue unchanged, and the meeting be prepared, a minute may be made stating that he is released at his own request; of this action the party should be informed, and such person shall not be a member of our Society unless received again, according to our usual order.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

A MEMBER inclining to make an acknowledgment of a violation of our Discipline should prepare the same in writing; and if on consulting the overseers or other judicious Friends the purport appears suitable to the occasion, he may send it, or present it to the meeting in person, and remain until it is read; when, after a suitable pause, he should withdraw, before that or any other business is proceeded upon. The meeting is then to consider the case, and after a decision is reached, appoint a committee to inform him of the result.

## DISOWNMENT.

An essential object of our religious organization being to strengthen and support its members in the upholding of our Christian testimonies, it has always exercised a care over their outward behavior, admonishing those who depart from its order, and disowning those who after patient labor appear irreclaimable.

The Society's care over members.

Nevertheless, the help of the Society being by none so much needed as by the weak and the wayward, the caution has always been extended that no judgment be placed hastily, or in the spirit of condemnation, but that all offenders be labored with lovingly, patiently, and so long as a reasonable hope of benefit therefrom appears.

Judgment not to be hasty; labor, patient and loving.

It is the desire of the Society that no one be disowned except when his retention would be to weaken our testimony for the Truth, impair the good example which we desire to set, or confuse our sense of right living.

Society's position as to disownments.

With these objects in view, Monthly Meetings have authority to exercise disciplinary

Authority of Monthly Meetings for labor and disownment.

labor, and, where such labor proves ineffectual, to proceed to disownment, upon the general grounds stated below, as well as upon those particularly stated elsewhere in this Book of Discipline. These general grounds are:

General grounds of disownment.

1. Breaches of the Moral Law, not acknowledged, repented, and repaired to the satisfaction of the Monthly Meeting.

2. Wilful disregard of those provisions of the Disicipline which by their language are made obligatory or prohibitory.

3. Such transgressions of our Testimonies (stated under the headings of Gospel Ministry, War, Oaths, Trade, Arbitration, and Gaming and Diversions), continued, and after labor unamended to the satisfaction of the Monthly Meeting, as clearly prove the person not to be in sympathy with the Truth as held by us.

4. Habitual absence from our meetings, without sufficient cause; or connection with other religious organizations.

## APPEALS.

If any one be dissatisfied with, or think himself aggrieved by, the judgment of a Monthly Meeting, he may, after a copy of the testimony is delivered to him, notify the first or second meeting thereafter of his intention of appealing to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting; which notification the Monthly Meeting should enter on its minutes, and appoint a committee of four or more suitable Friends to attend the Quarterly Meeting with it, and a copy of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting relative to the case, signed by the clerks, there to show the reasons whereon its judgment was founded, and submitting it to the said meeting. The Quarterly Meeting is then to refer the same to a suitable committee of Friends (omitting those of the Monthly Meeting from which the appeal comes), and upon its report to confirm or reverse the said judgment, or return the case to the Monthly Meeting for further care, as, on impartial deliberation, shall appear to be right, taking care to inform the parties of the result.

Notice to Monthly Meeting.

Monthly Meeting's action.

Quarterly Meeting's action.

Yearly Meeting's action.

If, on being informed thereof, such appellant is dissatisfied with the judgment of the Quarterly Meeting also, and shall notify that meeting or the next thereafter of his intention to apply to the Yearly Meeting for a further hearing, the said Quarterly Meeting, after recording such notification, is in like manner to appoint at least four suitable Friends to attend the Yearly Meeting with copies of the records of both the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in the case, signed by their clerks. Here it is to be finally determined, and a copy of the determination is to be sent to the meeting from which the appeal came.

## MEMORIALS.

When a Monthly Meeting, after solid consideration believes that benefit would accrue from a record of the life and services of a deceased member, it may prepare such a memorial. If approved by the meeting, and it is thought desirable, it may be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting, for its attention, and if there thought advisable, it may be forwarded to the Representative Committee for consideration and revision, not later than its meeting in the Third month; if thought suitable by that body, it should be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting.

## RECORDS.

Meetings to keep plain and correct records.

ALL meetings for business should keep neat, plain and correct records of their proceedings, in convenient books with marginal reference-notes and index, and provide suitable places in which to preserve them.

Records of membership to be carefully kept.

As great inconvenience may arise from the want of due attention in keeping a regular and correct record of membership, it is earnestly enjoined on each Monthly Meeting that it appoint a careful Friend whose duty it shall be, in books provided for the purpose at the Monthly Meeting's expense, to keep a full and accurate record of all births, marriages, removals, and deaths that shall occur among its members. And in order to engage the attention of Monthly Meetings more closely to this subject, it is further advised that an explicit answer be annually given to the Tenth Query by Monthly to Quarterly Meetings and through them to the Yearly Meeting.

Tenth Query to be explicitly answered.

It is recommended that the form of the record be as follows:—

*Page 1.* *(Left-hand page.)*

# Monthly Meeting of Friends.

| Wife's or Husband's Father. | Wife's or Husband's Mother. | Father. | Mother. | Where Married. | Date of Marriage. | | | To Whom Married. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hezekiah Brown | Beulah Brown (Shinn) | Charles Abbott | Rachel Abbott (Jones) | M. M., Green St., Phila. | 2 mo. | 10 | 1825 | Jane Brown |
| Amos Atkinson | Hester Atkinson (Thomas) | James Wilson | Emily Wilson (Lamb) | | 10 mo. | 16 | 1820 | Charles Atkinson |

*Letter A.*

# Record of Membership.

*(Right-hand page.)* *Page 2.*

| List of Members. | How Admitted. | Date of Admission. | | | How Departed. | Date of Departure. | | | Age of Dec's'd. | Where Buried. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abbott, George | Birthright. | 10 mo. | 6 | 1800 | Death. | 1 mo. | 1 | 1850 | 50 years | Fairhill, Phila. | An elder. |
| Atkinson, Rebecca R. | Convincement and application. | 1 mo. | 1 | 1826 | Certificate to Darby Meet. | 1 mo. | 1 | 1856 | | | |
| Andrews, Charles | Request of Parents. | 4 mo. | 7 | 1827 | Removed, parts unknown. | | | | | | |
| Antrim, Sarah | Certificate from Burlington. | 6 mo. | 4 | 1828 | Resigned. | 3 mo. | 7 | 1880 | | | |
| Archer, Elizabeth | | | 7 | 1828 | Disowned. | 4 mo. | 6 | 1860 | | | |

Copies of Marriage certificates to be kept and furnished.

The Representative Committee shall provide and keep on hand for the use of Monthly Meetings, to be distributed through its members, as occasion may require, neat, compact copies of our approved form of Marriage certificate, on durable material, and suitable for being firmly fastened in a book.

Duplicate certificate may be made and kept, or copy recorded.

A committee appointed to have care and oversight of a marriage should see that one of said marriage certificate blanks be properly filled, and signed by the principals and witnesses, at the time the original marriage certificate is signed, endeavoring to make it in wording and signatures a duplicate of the original certificate; and when finished, deliver it to the Recorder for binding and safe custody; or if the Monthly Meeting shall so direct, the Recorder shall make, instead of such proposed duplicate, a full copy of the original certificate with all the signatures.

Recorders to be furnished with book.

Each Monthly Meeting should furnish its Recorder with a suitable book in which to bind duplicates, or make copies, of Marriage Certificates.

Preservation of record and minute books.

As the record and minute books of Friends' meetings are very valuable, and in scattered places of deposit are inconvenient for reference, and in some instances in danger of being

lost, a central and secure place of deposit has been provided for them, and is under the care of the Representative Committee. And all meetings for business in the Yearly Meeting are encouraged to place therein such books as are not in present use.

# APPENDIX.

[THE testimony of Friends concerning Slavery, incorporated in the Discipline in 1755, through the earnest labors of John Woolman and others, and at different times later repeated and extended, is here inserted as a matter of historic interest, having been omitted by the Committee of Revision from the body of the book, in view of the abolition of Slavery in the United States, in the year 1865.]

## NEGROES OR SLAVES.

Testimony against slavery and the slave trade.

IT appears to have been the concern of this Meeting, revived from time to time with increasing weight, to testify their entire disunity with the practice of enslaving mankind, (and particularly to guard all in membership with us against being concerned in the purchase of slaves from the coast of Africa), yet as we have with sorrow to observe, that in some parts of our country this shameful practice is still continued and connived at, we think it proper to revive the advices heretofore issued, and again exhort our members to be no way accessory to this enormous national evil, but to discourage it by all the justifiable means in their power; it being obvious, that wherever it prevails it tends to corrupt the morals of the people, so as not only to render them obnoxious to the displeasure of the Almighty, but deaf to his warnings, and insensible and regardless of his impending judgments.

This oppressed class to be instructed, advised and assisted.

And we earnestly desire it may become the concern of our members generally, to use the influence they have with those who hold slaves by inheritance or otherwise, that they may be treated with moderation and kindness, and instructed as objects of the common salvation in the principles of the Christian religion; as well as in such branches of school-learning as may fit them for freedom, and to become useful members of civil society. Also that Friends in their several neighborhoods advise and assist such of the black people as are at liberty, in the education of their children, and common worldly concerns.

Hiring slaves.

Understanding that some in membership with us, either through inadvertence or from selfish motives, have hired slaves to assist them in their business; we desire such to consider, that in so doing they promote the unrighteous traffic and oppose our testimony against it. And it is our sense, that when slaves are thus hired, and the price of their services is intended for the benefit of those who claim the right of ownership, and not designed or applied to promote the liberation of the slave or slaves, such conduct is a violation of our testimony. And where any

among us cannot be persuaded to relinquish the practice, monthly meetings be at liberty, after patient labor has been found unavailing, to testify their disunity with them.

Caution to executors and administrators.

Friends are also cautioned against acting as executors or administrators to estates where slaves are bequeathed; and doing any thing whereby their bondage may be prolonged.

Kindness to them.

We are united in judgment, that the state of the black people who have been held as slaves by any of us or our predecessors, calls for a deep inquiry and close examination, how far we are clear of withholding from them what under such an exercise may be opened to our view as their just right; and we earnestly and affectionately entreat those in particular who have released any of them, to attend to the further openings of duty. Even if no such obligations to this people existed among us, it is worthy of our serious consideration, whether any object of beneficence is more deserving of our regard, than that of training up their youth in such virtuous principles and habits, as may render them useful and respectable members of the community.

Importing, selling, purchasing or giving away slaves.

It is the sense and judgment of this Meeting, that if any of our members are con-

cerned in importing, selling, or purchasing; or shall give away or transfer any negro or other slave, with or without any other consideration than to clear their estate of any future incumbrance, or in such manner that their bondage is continued beyond the time limited by law or custom for white persons; and also those who accept of such gift or assignment;—they ought to be speedily treated with in the spirit of true love and wisdom, and the iniquity of their conduct laid before them. And if, after Christian labor, they cannot be brought to such a sense of their injustice, as to do everything which the monthly meeting shall judge to be reasonable and necessary, for the restoring such slave to his or her natural and just right to liberty, and condemn their deviation from the law of righteousness and equity, to the satisfaction of the said meeting, that such member or members be testified against as other transgressors are by the rules of our discipline for other immoral, unjust, or reproachful conduct.

The meeting for sufferings to discourage the slave trade.

It appearing that, notwithstanding the many afflictive dispensations with which Divine wisdom has seen meet to visit this land, many of its inhabitants are so deaf to

the language of the rod, as to continue in the nefarious traffic for slaves to the coasts of Africa; and that the importation of them is still connived at: this Meeting, considering such a conduct as a bold and impious defiance of the Ruler of nations, and pregnant with the most alarming consequences to our country, earnestly recommends to the meeting for sufferings to embrace every suitable opportunity for advancing our testimony in this respect, and for calling the attention of the public mind to this awfully interesting subject.

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